

Including funds for BRAC in the CR is critical to modernizing and increasing the readiness of our Armed Forces.

The current CR provides \$2.7 billion for Base Realignment and Closure programs, which is \$3.1 billion below the President's request, as I previously stated. These reductions are inconsistent with congressional emphasis on force and readiness. Such a severe reduction to BRAC funding will force the Department to rephase BRAC implementation plans. This will have a negative ripple effect on the movement of troops and missions throughout our global defense posture restructuring.

This planned approach could delay force rotations to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the Army's overall readiness posture, which relies on completing the Modular Force conversions on time. This move will impact readiness. And soldiers at Fort Campbell, Fort Drum, and Fort Stewart will not have adequate places to train, work, or sleep.

This move will devastate the Department's ability to complete BRAC actions within statutory deadlines. It will stymie efforts to construct facilities and move equipment and people to receiver locations, thereby impeding our ability to realize savings and organizational efficiencies. Over 82 percent of the fiscal year 2007 BRAC request is for construction that is required before these moves can occur. The current continuing resolution cuts funding for family housing by \$300 million below the President's request. This will directly and adversely affect the quality of life of our servicemembers by perpetuating the continued use of inadequate facilities where they work, train, and live.

Regarding my home State of Georgia, the following projects will be in jeopardy—and these are going to have very serious consequences to the ability to train and give quality of life to the soldiers, which they deserve—a child development center at Fort Benning; two trainee barracks complexes at Fort Benning; training brigade complex at Fort Benning; fire and movement range at Fort Benning; modified record fire range at Fort Benning; brigade headquarters building at Fort Benning; stationary gunnery range at Fort Benning; Marine Corps Reserve center at Robins Air Force base; Marine Corps Reserve center in Rome, GA; three facilities to prepare Moody Air Force Base to receive A-10 aircraft; and relocation of a vehicle maintenance complex at Robins Air Force Base.

None of these improvements can be made for our fighting men and women without this funding. It is imperative we do so in this CR.

Mr. President, I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). There is 1 minute 55 seconds.

COMMENDING CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE NORWOOD

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, in that remaining minute 55 seconds, I will very quickly say a word of commendation about a good friend of mine, a good friend of all Members of Congress, who is now serving in the other body, Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD.

Congressman NORWOOD has been in a severe battle for his life for the last 3 years, and he is having a tough time. He has made a decision to now go back to Augusta, GA, and spend the rest of his time with his family.

And, boy, what a great warrior CHARLIE NORWOOD has been. It was my privilege to be elected to Congress with Congressman NORWOOD in 1994. He is an avowed conservative. He does not back away from any of his positions in supporting conservative values. He is a strong supporter of our men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. He is a Vietnam veteran. He is a very professional dentist. And he is one of the greatest guys I have ever had the privilege of being associated with.

As CHARLIE and his wife Gloria return to Augusta to spend the rest of his time there, I want to say it has been a privilege to know him. It has been a privilege to serve with him. I hope to have the opportunity to spend some more time with him in the next several weeks, months, whatever it may be.

But he is a great trooper. He is a great American. And I hope all Members of this body, as well as all Americans, will keep Congressman NORWOOD and his wife Gloria in their thoughts and prayers.

Mr. President, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one thing that should be noted, and has been noted on this floor today, is that the former chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its members got all the appropriations bills passed out of Committee early on last year. Had they been brought up by the then-leadership in the House and the Senate we would not even be talking about a CR because, of course, they would have been passed and signed into law.

But 2 weeks ago, the Senate and House Appropriations Committees finished drafting H.J. Res. 20, the joint spending resolution. The House passed the joint resolution on January 31 by a bipartisan vote of 286 to 140. The current continuing resolution left to us by the last Congress expires on February 15. So we have to act.

Total funding in the joint resolution is within the ceiling imposed by President Bush and the Republican Congress last year for fiscal year 2007. There are, however, some adjustments from the fiscal year 2006 funding levels in the continuing resolution that the Republican Congress agreed to.

During the past month, we worked together on a bipartisan basis to make these adjustments so there would not be severe hardships to the most vulnerable people or layoffs of Federal employees.

As chairman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee I am gratified by the additional funding that was included to meet urgent humanitarian needs that do not reflect any partisan interest. These are moral needs.

I thank Chairman BYRD and Ranking Member COCHRAN for their help and also the ranking member of the subcommittee, Senator GREGG of New Hampshire, and also his able staff for their support and cooperation during this process, and Tim Rieser and Kate Eltrich of my staff for what they have done.

The adjustments include additional funding to combat HIV and AIDS. Under the continuing resolution we enacted last year funding within State and Foreign Operations to combat HIV and AIDS totaled \$2.57 billion, including \$445 million for the Global Fund that fights also tuberculosis and malaria.

Under H.J. Res. 20, those amounts will go to \$3.84 billion and \$625 million, respectively, again, with bipartisan support. I thank Senators DURBIN and BROWNBACK and the others who supported me in this effort.

Currently, only 20 percent of the people needing AIDS drugs in poor countries get them, and only 10 percent of the people at risk of infection are receiving the services to help them protect themselves.

If we had continued funding at last year's level, we would not have been able to provide lifesaving antiretroviral drugs to an estimated 350,000 HIV-infected people.

According to the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, 110,000 to 175,000 people would die of HIV-related causes if the fiscal year 2006 funding levels had not been increased in the joint resolution. Funding to combat malaria would have been frozen at the fiscal year 2006 level under the continuing resolution passed last year.

Of course, malaria is something we do not have to worry about in this country. It is both preventable and treatable. Yet it kills more than a million people each year. Most of those who die are African children. An expansion of programs to combat malaria would have been stalled under the continuing resolution and the eight additional countries targeted for the next round of malaria prevention and treatment would have been placed on hold.

The additional funding will enable us to meet our commitment to cut malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 of the hardest hit countries in Africa. These funds will go to support the purchase of lifesaving drugs, the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets, and the treatment of pregnant women at risk for malaria.

What we do here will help people none of us here will ever meet. Yet think of nearly a million children in Africa who would die if we do not act. So it becomes a moral issue. America, again, helping people we will never know or see, but we do it because it is the moral thing to do and we have the wealth and technology to do it.

Under H.J. Res. 20, funding for international peacekeeping operations will receive an additional \$113 million above the amount in the continuing resolution enacted last year. This will ensure that our assessed dues to the U.N. are paid and we do not fall further behind in our support for troops in 13 countries, including Lebanon, Sudan, Haiti, and the Congo where, again, it is in our best interests to support these peacekeeping missions.

We provide \$50 million to support the African Union troops in Darfur and southern Sudan. These funds had been omitted last year, but they are needed for the 7,000 troops at 34 camps throughout Sudan. When we read about the genocide in Sudan, about the children who have been murdered, women who have been raped, people who have been killed as they flee the ashes of their homes, how can we, as Americans say we can't do something to stop it?

There is \$20 million here to support Iraqi refugees. That is an amount which, unfortunately, will only begin to address the catastrophe that is unfolding. In fact, additional aid, as we know, will be needed for Iraqi refugees in the fiscal year 2007 supplemental. The number of refugees is going up every day. The ability to care for them is insufficient.

So the clock is ticking. The urgency with which the Senate must act to pass the joint funding resolution should be measured not in time but in human lives. As Members of the Senate and the American people can readily see, this legislation involves issues of life and death.

The additional funds were designated by the chairmen and ranking members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees to support the priorities of both Democratic and Republican Senators, without exceeding the total funding ceiling set by the President.

I have said so many times on the floor of the Senate, on questions of diseases that could be prevented, if Members of the Senate have young children or grandchildren or their friends do, we know that at certain times as they are growing up they go to the pediatrician, they get vaccinated against measles and other diseases. And they are protected. We take it as a matter of course. We get the bill and we pay it, but that bill is close to the amount many people in Africa would earn in a year. They also know that their children may not get those vaccinations. They will not go to the pediatrician when they are 5 years old because many of them die before they are 5 years old.

Oftentimes the mothers are not there to care for them either because of hundreds of thousands of women die needlessly in childbirth.

We can make a dramatic change. I agree with the President, I agree with Members on both sides of the aisle, and I commend those who have supported this. But also to those people around the world who have urged America, the most powerful Nation on Earth, to stand up and do these humanitarian things, this is a small down payment on what the wealthiest, most powerful Nation on Earth can do. It is something that speaks to the moral character of America and makes us a better nation and makes the lives of people we will never see better.

I am reminded of my dear friend Bono, who is known all over the world for doing this, and who I commended for helping people throughout the world who would never hear his music, who do not recognize him, who will never buy a ticket to one of his concerts but whose lives are measurably better because of him. We have it in our power to do the same thing.

Madam President, while I have been here the occupant of the Chair changed from the time I started my comments to now. I hope it will show on the RECORD and will be corrected to say "Madam President." One of the problems when you have been here as long as I have is you get used to saying "Mr. President." And, of course, the Chair is now occupied by the Senator from Minnesota, one of the welcome new faces in the Senate, somebody who has improved the Senate just by being here.

I was reminded of some who came here at a time when this was an all-male Senate, and it has improved substantially by the fact that it is no longer nor ever will be, I believe, in our lifetimes, an all-male body.

I apologize to the Presiding Officer who came to the Chair following the distinguished Senator from Nebraska. Of course, I refer to her with pride, I might say, and with gratitude, as Madam President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Under the previous order, the Senator from Alabama has 45 minutes.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR THAD COCHRAN ON HIS 10,000TH VOTE

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, before I get into what I want to talk about this afternoon at length, and that would be Iraq and our military operation there, I would be remiss if I didn't say a few words about our colleague and friend, Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi, the former chairman and now the ranking Republican on the Appropriations Committee, who cast, as we all know from our colleagues' talks today, his 10,000th vote in the Senate. I have known Senator COCHRAN for 28 years, since I first came to the U.S. House of Representatives. I

can tell you, without any reservation, he is a gentleman. He is a bright, very engaged Senator. He knows the appropriations process, but he is courteous to all of us. He will always listen to us, although his position might be 180 degrees from what we are talking about.

I congratulate him for this achievement. This is a milestone in the Senate. I don't know if I will ever be here for 10,000 votes. Not many people, as Senator BYRD mentioned this morning, have. So this is a feat in itself. I congratulate Senator COCHRAN for his diligence and his service to the Nation and to the people of Mississippi in the Senate and, before then, in the House of Representatives, and also as a naval officer, as a young man out of Old Miss Law School.

IRAQ

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I rise today to discuss U.S. military operations in Iraq.

Four years ago, we invaded Iraq to disarm an oppressor's regime and restore control of that country to its own people. In the early hours of March 20, 2003, the United States, joined by our coalition partners, began a military campaign against the regime of Saddam Hussein. Code named "shock and awe," the first 24 hours of combat operations filled the country with punishing air attacks. As the massive firestorm of bombs and missiles targeted Iraqi leadership, ground forces rolled towards Iraq's capital.

Without question, our military operations were swift and decisive. Approximately 120,000 U.S. troops, as well as a number of forces from our coalition partners, led the invasion into Iraq. Ground forces moved into Baghdad, formally occupied the city, and the Hussein government collapsed approximately 3 weeks after military operations began. Saddam Hussein and his top leadership were captured, killed, or forced into hiding by coalition forces.

With Saddam on the run many Iraqis celebrated the downfall of the oppressive regime.

While some fighting in Iraq continued, the major battles appeared over just one month after the start of the military campaign. And 43 days after announcing the beginning of the war, President Bush declared that, "Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed."

Undoubtedly, the President was wrong. After remarkable success during the initial combat operations, it appears that the Bush administration did not sufficiently prepare for the consequences of their military victory. The Bush administration could not have known everything about what it would find in Iraq.

But it could have, and should have, done far more than it did.

As George Washington once said, "There is nothing so likely to produce